An International Workshop is Held

Workshop on Micro/Nano Scale Thermal/Fluids Engineering for Biotechnology and Energy Conversion Applications

“International Workshop on Micro/Nano Scale Thermal/Fluids Engineering for Biotechnology and Energy Conversion Applications” sponsored by the 21st Century COE program Mechanical Systems Innovation, was held on April 22 (Fri) 2005 at Takeda conference hall, by inviting leading experts in the area of micro/nano engineering of bio and energy applications. Hot topics on micro heat transfer, fuel reforming for fuel cells, biomass, heat pumps, MEMS, and bio-fluidics were introduced by Dr. G. P. Celata (ENEA Casaccia, Rome, Italy), Prof. R. Shah (Rochester Institute of Technology, USA), Prof. G. Akay (University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK), Prof. A. Cavallini (University of Padova, Italy), Prof. C. J. Kim (UCLA, USA), and Prof. D. Poulikakos (ETH, Switzerland). More than 120 people, mostly young graduate students and Ph.D. candidates, attended the workshop. The discussions and interactions with invited speakers were intensive and exciting. The workshop was very successful in providing good opportunities for young researchers.
Three Project Promoters Newly Join 21COE

Takashi Ushida
Professor, Center for Disease Biology and Integrative Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine
(Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering)

I feel very honored to join the 21 COE program Mechanical Systems Innovation”, while I have a chance to carry out research and continue my education in the Graduate School of Engineering as well as the Graduate School of Medicine. My major is “Medical Engineering”, and I especially focus on "Tissue Engineering (Regenerative Medicine)” as my primary research theme. I would be very pleased if I could contribute to extending the horizon of mechanical engineering by exploring medical fields from mechanical points of view. At the same time, I am charged with publishing and press in the Program. I hope to inform as many people as possible of the Program’s research and education activities by a variety of means, and I am looking forward to working with you all.

Shinobu Yoshimura
Professor, Department of Quantum Engineering and Systems Science, School of Engineering

I have been enrolled in this COE project since April 1st of this year. I also just moved back from the Institute of Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, to the School of Engineering on April 1st. I have worked as a visiting researcher in Computational Mechanics Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA in 1985-86 and in the Material Testing Institute, University of Stuttgart, Germany, in 1994. My research topic is Intelligent Simulation, which is a high level of integration of (1) Computational Mechanics, (2) High-Performance Computing and Networking, and (3) Intelligent and Soft Computing. With the intelligent simulation, I am studying Design of Artifacts, Large-Scale Simulation of Artifacts, Life-Time Assessment, Inverse Analysis, and Social and Environment Simulations. In the COE project, I focus on Large-Scale Coupled Mechanics Simulation and Inverse analysis.

Shigehiko Kaneko
Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering

My specialty is dynamics and control of mechanical systems. In connection with small-sized distributed energy systems, I currently am primarily working on the following three research topics: biomass gas-fueled micro gas turbines, gas engines, and foil bearings for small-sized gas turbine use. To prototype a low-calorie biomass gas-fueled micro gas turbine, we designed and manufactured a special combustor under the guidance of JAXA, developed a control system, and finally succeeded in achieving stable operations. In general, gas engines have better thermal efficiency than micro gas turbines; however, if we try to operate gas engines fueled by biomass gas that maintain stable combustion, we have to develop control systems to deal with time variations related to the calories and composition of the supplied biomass gas. We are now developing such a control system by adjusting the timing of the igniter. The last research topic is the development of a foil bearing for high-speed small-sized gas turbine use. To contribute to the early realization of distributed energy systems, I will continue proposing new ideas, and I hope to receive your cooperation. Thank you.
Voices from Young Researchers

Yoshiaki Akematsu
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Environmental and Ocean Engineering, School of Engineering

My name is Yoshiaki Akematsu. I have been worked for the University of Tokyo as a postdoctoral fellow since 2004. My specialty is nondestructive inspection. Acoustic emissions, which are made up of transient elastic waves generated by the rapid release of energy, are my particular area of interest. In my research I have attempted to clarify the mechanism of sound source. I have recently studied the “Detection of Elastic Wave by Using Optical Fiber Sensor during Single Pulse Discharge.” Electrical discharge machining (EDM) is widely used for manufacturing various kinds of dies and molds. However, the mechanism of material removal in EDM has not been sufficiently clarified because electric discharge is a very short time phenomenon and occurs as electromagnetic noise. In order to overcome some of the problems of discharge monitoring systems, a new optical fiber sensor has been developed. I hope that this optical fiber sensor will clarify the mechanism of material removal in EDM. Furthermore, I will add to my stock of scientific knowledge to take advantage of the 21st COE Program. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

Kohei Okita
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering

My name is Kohei Okita. I have been working as a postdoctoral fellow of COE since April, 2004. My research topic is a multi-scale analysis for gas-liquid two-phase flows in “The Hyper Modeling/Simulation Project”. In particular, I have been studying the cavitation phenomenon, which is a sequence of nucleation, growth, contraction, and collapse of bubbles in liquids by a change in the surrounding hydrodynamic environment. Cavitation induces unstable phenomena in fluid machinery and erodes materials in piping systems. Now, based on experimental analyses, however, cavitation phenomena have begun to be effectively utilized in a variety of fields. Bubble collapse can lead to high temperature and pressure conditions, which can be used for a lithotripsy in medical fields, an annihilation of microbes, and the decomposition of chemicals in environmental fields. However, details of the cavitation phenomenon have not yet been clarified due to the complex interaction between micro- and macro-scale phenomena. I intend to study the cavitation phenomenon by using modeling and simulation.
Project Executive Organization

Project Promoters

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Energy innovation
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Shinobu Yoshinuma  
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Project members
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Chair, President, Kagawa University
Noboru Kikuchi  
Professor, The University of Michigan
Tetsuya Tateishi  
Professor, Tokyo Denki University

Advisory Committee

Advisory committee
Kouiaro Inoue  
Senior Fellow, Japan Science and Technology Agency
Noboru Kikuchi  
Professor, The University of Michigan
Yoshitsugu Kimura  
Chair, President, Kagawa University
Tetsuya Tateishi  
Professor, Tokyo Denki University

Activities of Mechanical Systems Innovation Program (scheduled)

<International Workshop>
○Workshop on Micro/Nano Scale Thermal/Fluids  
Conversion Applications
Date  : April 22, 2005
Venue  : Takeda Hall, Takeda Building, Asano Campus

<Open Seminars>
○FY2005-1st Seminar
Date  : June 10, 2005
Venue  : Seminar Room No.2, Faculty of Engineering Bldg.2,  
Hongo Campus
Subject  : Topics in Financial Mathematics
Speaker  : Prof. Huaxiong Huang (York University)

○FY2005-2nd Seminar
Date  : June 17, 2005
Venue  : Seminar Room No.2, Faculty of Engineering Bldg.2,  
Hongo Campus
Subject  : Topics in Financial Mathematics
Speaker  : Prof. Huaxiong Huang (York University)

<Industry-Government-Academia Interaction Meeting  
for Human Resource Development>
○FY2005-1st Meeting
Date  : March 15, 2005
Venue  : Lecture Room No.226, Faculty of Engineering Bldg.8,  
Hongo Campus
Subject  : Efforts to the Advanced Human Resource Development
Speaker  : Yuji Sakakibara (Manager, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology [MEXT])

○FY2005-2nd Meeting
Date  : April 28, 2005
Venue  : Lecture Room No.226, Faculty of Engineering Bldg.8,  
Hongo Campus
Subject  : Expectations and Realities for Postdoctoral  
Research, Corporate Center, Toshiba Co., Ltd.
Speaker  : Mutsuhiro Arinobu (Chief of Research & Development,Corporate  
Center, Toshiba Co., Ltd.)

○FY2005-1st Council
Date  : June 3, 2005
Venue  : Lecture Room No.226, Faculty of Engineering Bldg.8, Hongo  
Campus